**Coal mining operation in Dumka district of Bihar**

3450. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Eastern Coalfields Ltd. to take up coal mining operations in kathikund, Amlapahari and Gopikander areas of Dumka district in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has found a coal deposit of more than 400 million tonnes of top grade coal in that area;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that such coal deposit is found around the area of approximately 48 sq. km. of that locality; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) As per the regional drilling conducted by GSI, about 400 million tonnes reserves of coal in the grade varying from "E' to "C' have been located. However, these reserves are in the category of "INDICATED" and "INFERRED" and can be converted into "PROVED" category only after detailed drilling is conducted. ECL can draw up a proposal for mining in these areas only after the above indicated exercise I completed. As per the information available with Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), a total of 9 coal seams with thickness ranging from 3 to 18 M are present in this area and part of the coal reserves may be exploited by opencast mining.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The total coal bearing area will be about 48 sq. km.

**Decreasing Demand for Coal**

†3451. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of coal in the country has been going down for the last few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.